



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE,
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www.eastcambs.gov.uk

Further to your information request FOI/EIR 21/22-191 please find your question and our response below.

Request:

1. Do you currently operate commercial or residential waste collection services: (1) directly / inhouse, (2) via a waste contractor, (3) or through a joint-partnership with another authority?
 - a. If via a contractor, please can you provide their name. Similarly, if in partnership with another authority, please name
2. Could you please provide a breakdown of the number of large (i.e. a bin with capacity greater than 500 litres) recycling and general waste bins that you own, or fall under the remit of your authority?
 - a. Can you provide details of how many of these bins are metal vs plastic?
 - b. Are these bins purchased outright by the authority, or leased?
3. If possible, can you provide any details of spending history on large (i.e. a capacity greater than 500 litres) recycling and general waste bins? (as many years as reasonably possible)
 - a. Can you provide details of which supplies this spend was with?
4. Do you carry out any maintenance on your existing fleet of 'large' bins? Is this done inhouse, or via a contractor? If via a contractor please name
 - a. Is it possible to provide details of spend on maintenance on 'large' bins?
5. Do you have any 'Big belly' solar compactor bins within your authority? If so, how many?

Response:

1. Directly / Inhouse – through East Cambs Street Scene (an East Cambridgeshire District Council Trading Company)
2. See refusal notice below
3. See refusal notice below
4. See refusal notice below
5. No

In respect of those requests that were answered in full or partially and the total refused please take this as notice under FOIA, that we:

- a) Consider the information as exempt from disclosure under the Act;
- b) Claim exempt under sections of the Act:

Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000

- c) State why the exemption applies

Commercial Interests

(2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it)

We confirm that we hold the information requested. As Section 43 is a qualified exemption, we, the authority, must consider the balance of public interest in the circumstances of the request.

The requested information is held by one of East Cambridgeshire District Council's Trading Companies, East Cambs Street Scene (ECSS). Whilst there is a need for openness and transparency regarding how public funds are being managed, it is essential that ECSS can negotiate rates in a competitive market place so that they can obtain the best value for public money. Publication of the prices would hinder the competitive nature of any future tendering process by allowing service providers to tailor their quotes based on what they know ECSS is currently paying, and on what they know their competitors are currently charging. This could result in an increased cost to the public purse. As well as the commercial interests of East Cambs Street Scene, we have a duty to protect the commercial interests of third-party

suppliers by not publishing their commercially sensitive rates, and thereby allowing their market competitors to have access to information that they could use to their own advantage, and to the detriment of our suppliers. Whilst the Council strongly believes in the principle of open and accountable local government and its Trading Companies, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 21/22-191

If information has been refused please treat this as a Refusal Notice for the purposes of the Act.

If you disagree with our decision or are otherwise unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach foi@eastcambs.gov.uk and request a review. A request for review must be made in no more than 40 working days from the date of this email.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under s50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.